

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1.– 27. (canceled)

28. (new) A cross-arm for a utility pole for use in low to medium voltage electricity distribution and transmission, the cross-arm being metallic and coated with an electrically insulatory coating.

29. (new) A cross-arm according to claim 28, wherein the coating has a dielectric strength of greater than 10kV/mm.

30. (new) A cross-arm according to claim 28, wherein the cross-arm is formed as a hollow steel section.

31. (new) A cross-arm according to claim 28, wherein the coating is a polymeric material.

32. (new) A cross-arm according to claim 31, wherein the coating is applied by an electrolytic powder coating process, using a powder of the polymeric material.

33. (new) A cross-arm according to claim 31, wherein the polymeric material is nylon.

34. (new) A cross-arm according to claim 31, wherein the polymeric material is thermoplastic.

35. (new) A cross-arm according to claim 31, wherein the polymeric material is an epoxy.

36. (new) A cross-arm assembly comprising a cross-arm, said cross-arm being metallic and coated with an electrically insulatory material, and a fastening system operative to fasten the cross-arm to a utility pole.

37. (new) A cross-arm according to claim 36, wherein the coating has a dielectric strength of greater than 10kV/mm.

38. (new) A cross-arm assembly according to claim 36, wherein the fastening system comprises clamping means that is securable to one of either the pole or the cross-arm, the clamping means being operative to extend about the other of the pole or cross-arm to which it is secured and apply a clamping force to the other of the pole or cross arm so as to fasten the cross-arm and pole together.

39. (new) A cross-arm assembly according to claim 36, wherein the fastening system includes a seat which locates under the cross-arm and which is securable to the utility pole.

40. (new) A cross-arm assembly according to claim 36, wherein the seat is formed from a metal section coated with an electrically insulatory coating.

41. (new) A cross-arm assembly according to claim 36, further comprising an extension arm which extends upwardly from the cross-arm.

42. (new) A cross-arm assembly according to claim 41, wherein the extension arm is metallic and coated with an electrically insulatory coating.

43. (new) A cross-arm assembly according to claim 41, wherein the extension arm is formed as a hollow section and incorporates a coupling at its upper end operative to receive an electricity distribution wire and a second coupling at its lower end which is operative to be connected to the cross-arm.

44. (new) A cross-arm assembly according to claim 36, further comprising an electrically insulating medium which locates between the pole and the cross-arm so as to provide an insulation barrier between the pole and cross-arm.

45. (new) A fastening system for fastening a cross-arm to a utility pole, the fastening system comprising clamping means that is securable to one of either the pole or the cross-arm, the clamping means being metallic and coated with an electrically insulatory coating, the clamping means being operative to extend about the other of the pole or cross-arm to which it is secured and apply a clamping force to the other of the pole or cross-arm so as to fasten the cross-arm and pole together.

46. (new) A fastening system according to claim 45, wherein the clamping means is in the form of a saddle which incorporates end portions securable to either the pole or the cross-arm and a mid portion which is operative to extend around the other of the pole or the cross-arm to which it is secured so as to apply a clamping force to the other of the pole or cross-arm.

47. (new) A fastening system according to claim 45, wherein the end portions of the saddle are secured to either the pole or the cross-arm by mechanical fastening.

48. (new) A fastening system according to claim 45, further comprising fastening means extending between the clamping means and the pole or cross-arm about which it extends.

49. (new) A fastening system according to claim 48, wherein the fastening means is a mechanical fastener.

50. (new) A fastening system according to claim 45, wherein the coating is a polymeric material.

51. (new) A fastening system according to claim 50, wherein the polymeric material is nylon.

52. (new) A fastening system according to claim 50, wherein the coating is applied by an electrolytic powder coating process, using the powder of a polymeric material.

53. (new) A utility pole assembly comprising a utility pole, a cross-arm assembly, said cross-arm assembly further comprising a metallic cross-arm coated with an electrically insulatory coating, and a fastening system operative to fasten the cross-arm to said utility pole.

54. (new) A utility pole assembly according to claim 53, wherein the utility pole is made from steel.

55. (new) A utility pole assembly according to claim 53, further comprising an insulating medium located between the pole and cross-arm so as to provide an electrically insulating barrier between the pole and cross-arm.

56. (new) A utility pole assembly according to claim 53, wherein the fastening system for fastening the cross-arm to the utility pole comprises clamping means secured to one of either the pole or the cross-arm, the clamping means being operative to extend about the other of the pole or cross-arm to which it is secured and apply a clamping force to the other of the pole or cross-arm so as to fasten the cross-arm and pole together.

57. (new) A method of securing a cross-arm to a utility pole for use in low to medium voltage electricity distribution and transmission wherein metallic clamping means coated with an electrically insulatory coating are arranged to clamp the cross-arm to the utility pole, the method comprising:

locating the clamping means over one of the cross-arm or the utility pole; and

securing the clamping means to the other of said cross-arm or utility pole whereby on securing the clamping means, the clamping means clamps the one of the cross-arm or the utility pole to the other of said cross-arm or utility pole to which it is secured.

58. (new) A method according to claim 57, further comprising:

fastening the clamping means to the one of the cross-arm or the utility pole.

59. (new) A method according to claim 57, further comprising:

providing an electrically insulating medium; and